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Letter dated 11 November 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 5 August 2002 (S/2002/916), in which I proposed, and the Security Council subsequently approved (see S/2002/917), the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) from 31 December 2002 until 31 December 2003.

During 2003, as members of the Council are aware, UNOGBIS centred its activities on helping manage the multiple crises that had arisen as a result of institutional differences among various State organs over their constitutional responsibilities, especially following the dissolution of the National Assembly by former President Kumba Yalá in November 2002. The Guinea-Bissau military cited these crises as reason for their intervention on 14 September 2003. Transitional arrangements were subsequently established, including the appointment of a civilian President.

In his letter to me of 5 November 2003, President Henrique Perreira Rosa requested the extension of the mandate of UNOGBIS until 31 December 2004 to facilitate dialogue among all actors and to promote national reconciliation during the transition.

I propose, therefore, that the mandate of UNOGBIS be extended for one year, until 31 December 2004. Following consultations with the transitional authorities, and in the light of the current situation on the ground, the present mandate has been revised as follows:

(a) To support all efforts to promote political dialogue, national reconciliation, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and to strengthen democratic institutions;

(b) To encourage the Government and other national stakeholders to restore and consolidate constitutional normality and to create a conducive environment for peace, stability and the holding of free and transparent elections;

(c) To assist with these elections, in close cooperation with the United Nations country team and other international partners;

(d) To support national efforts, including those of civil society and in particular women's organizations, aimed at strengthening the country's capacities

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for conflict prevention and for the peaceful management of differences, especially during the transition period;

(e) To encourage initiatives aimed at maintaining friendly relations between Guinea-Bissau and its neighbours and building confidence between the country and its external partners;

(f) To encourage the Government to enact the programme of small arms collection and destruction;

(g) To facilitate, in close cooperation with the United Nations country team, the Bretton Woods institutions and the relevant intergovernmental bodies and mechanisms, international political support to help address the post-conflict recovery priorities of Guinea-Bissau, within the framework of an integrated peace-building strategy.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**